



PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL NO. 30

STRENGTH | VISION | FUTURE

EDGE

GENERAL ELECTION
EDITION



2020 General Election November 3, 2020

The 2020 General Election will determine the future of so many aspects of American life. The U.S. presidential candidates offer very different approaches to most of the issues that are important to Americans. This General Election Edition of *The Edge* considers these issues and the District Council's endorsements down the ballot, including important state and local elections, and ballot initiatives that will impact the health of the Illinois building and construction economy for many years.

Tough Decisions for Labor Voters

Whichever candidate wins – Donald Trump or Joe Biden – they will take the nation in dramatically different directions.

Donald Trump has excited many union members, bringing them closer to politics and making them feel they can reverse the forces that have eroded economic opportunity for families and communities hard hit by the 2008 Recession. Some see Trump as the better choice if they're concerned with protecting Second Amendment rights or electing a leader whose judicial appointments and policies align with their family's values on matters such as abortion, border security, and other issues.

On the other side, PDC 30 knows that many union members believe Trump has upset the values and ruined much of the hope they had formed during the Obama-Biden presidency that America would continue toward a "more perfect union," a nation where all people, regardless of their race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, preferred language, or economic status, could realize upward social mobility.

These members see a **Joe Biden** victory as a route to getting the United States back on course to a fair economy that works for Main Street, not just Wall Street. They fear that they may once again face the real possibility of losing everything they've earned because of a catastrophic illness, or loss of coverage for pre-existing medical conditions. And, they want to see an end to policies that put children in cages and tear law-abiding, productive immigrants from their families. Some are also concerned that Trump is throwing gasoline on the fire in communities grappling with social unrest due to police shootings of people of color.

Many PDC 30 members, regardless of who they plan to vote for, see over 200,000 Americans dead from COVID-19, and many families facing the uncertainty and fear over COVID-19. They see experts talking about a "fall wave" with the potential to exceed previous peaks, and they worry it may take many months, even a year, for a safe and reliable vaccine to reach them.

PDC 30 is a labor union, so its guidance to members will always seek to produce outcomes that lead to more work for its members, more advantageous and durable collective bargaining agreements, and laws and regulations that favor and

protect working people. Unlike previous years, PDC 30 has decided to offer an analysis of the two presidential options focusing on key labor issues, and leaving aside for you to consider personally many other important issues that might factor into your vote (see page 3).

"VOTE YOUR JOB, LOBBY YOUR HOBBY"

In the March Primary Edition of *The Edge*, we encouraged members to focus on the issues that are most relevant to their livelihoods. In some circles, this advice is being simplified in the slogan: "Vote your job, lobby your hobby."

What this means is vote for the person best suited to protect your livelihood; as for your preferences, such as protecting Second Amendment rights and other non-economic causes and issues, know that you and others with similar views will continue to be able to advocate for those interests, and – despite the claims of special interest groups – presidents and lawmakers rarely alter rights and privileges that have existed, regardless of the party in power, for decades.

PDC 30 looked at six key issues for labor voters: (1) healthcare, (2) the COVID-19 pandemic, (3) unions and apprenticeships,

(4) infrastructure, (5) multiemployer pension reform, and (6) immigration. This analysis uncovers vast differences in approaches on healthcare, COVID-19, unions/apprenticeships, and immigration, with the Biden-Harris ticket offering much better futures for working families on these issues.

On infrastructure, both have plans and we suspect they have equally serious intentions. Our analysis suggests that Biden has experience getting infrastructure plans up and running, and his plans are also more focused on creating good, union jobs that impact opportunities in the construction sector.

Multiemployer pension reform is less of a serious issue for PDC 30 members, because of the healthy status of the PDC 30 pension fund; however, the issue is critical to the health of unions across the nation. Both candidates appear to support reform measures; but Biden appears better positioned to get it done.

PDC 30's analysis points to Biden-Harris as the best choice on these key labor issues. The District Council greatly respects the right of all its members to form their own opinions and vote based on issues that are most important to them. Everyone, if they can, should vote (see below for how to make a plan to vote).

Make a Plan for Voting – There are Four Ways to Vote in the 2020 General Election

Use one of these helpful websites to make a plan for voting:

- www.illinoisvotes2020.com (website managed by Vote for Fairness)
- www.betterknowaballot.com (website created by Stephen Cobert to help voters register, request an absentee ballot, vote by mail, etc.)
- vote.gov (website managed by the U.S. government that will link you to resources)
- www.elections.il.gov (website managed by Illinois State Board of Elections)

1. VOTE BY MAIL: You must fill out the form specific to your county (either online or on paper) to request a vote-by-mail ballot. Ballot requests must be made by October 29th. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked on or before midnight, November 3rd. However, USPS recommends mailing your ballot no later than October 27th. Use one of the above resources or go to: www.elections.il.gov, under Voting by Mail.

2. VOTE EARLY: Registered voters can vote early in person at designated locations throughout each county ending November 2nd (start dates of early voting may vary by county). Go to www.elections.il.gov, under Information for Voters, Early Voting/Grace Period Registration Locations.

3. GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION & VOTING: You can register to vote AND submit your vote from October 7th – November 3rd through the Grace Period Registration program. Two forms of identification with at least one showing your current residence address are required to register in-person. Go to www.elections.il.gov, under Information for Voters, Early Voting/Grace Period Registration Locations.

4. VOTE IN PERSON ON NOVEMBER 3RD: Polls are open from 6am - 7pm on Election Day. Each voter must vote at their designated polling place. Go to: www.elections.il.gov, under Election Authority Contact Information.

Analyzing the Key Issues for Labor Voters

PDC 30 divided up the following six issues, read about them, and formed brief summaries and discussions of each. You are encouraged to review one, two, or all in thinking about your vote for president and vice president.

Healthcare

Even with excellent healthcare benefits provided through their unions, many union members appreciate the reforms contained in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) (otherwise known as “Obamacare”) – protections for pre-existing conditions and extension of coverage of child dependents until age 26, for example. The ACA has also allowed many union members to afford coverage during periods of ineligibility under their union plans.

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON HEALTHCARE

Donald Trump has been consistently devoted to eliminating the ACA.¹ He has sued to eliminate the entire law, including all of its protections; and that case is scheduled to go before the Supreme Court just after the election, where the Administration is expected to win its battle to eliminate the law.²

Moreover, Trump has presented no alternative to the ACA,³ and nothing concrete that would protect people with pre-existing conditions.⁴ Instead, he has sought to expand the number of short-term plans that exclude those with pre-existing conditions and base

rates on applicants’ medical history; and he continues to promote plans created by employers that exclude high-risk participants (called “Association Health Plans”).⁵ Trump has revived talk of “high-risk pools,” but has not made clear how those covered by such plans will receive affordable coverage.⁶

As the election nears, it is not clear how Trump’s efforts to lower the price of prescription drugs through an executive order will actually lower prices, and his healthcare “Vision” – announced less than 6 weeks before the election – thus far only appears to be a declaration of what he will

and will not sign in terms of future legislation (after the ACA is eliminated).⁷

Joe Biden plans to build on the strengths of the ACA, including adding a “public option” for those seeking low-cost healthcare coverage.⁸ He reminds voters that 20 million more people have health insurance since the ACA became law.⁹ He is obviously concerned that the Supreme Court may very soon eliminate the law, leaving the healthcare environment in chaos in the midst of a pandemic.

The COVID-19 Pandemic

At the time of writing this information, a leading COVID-19 forecaster estimates that, by the end of 2020, America’s total death toll will be 360,000.¹⁰ The impact of COVID-19 has been particularly felt in “essential services,” which in Illinois includes construction industries. Locally, the Tri-Council Development Fund, a partnership of IUPAT District Councils 30, 14, and 58, has indicated to state and federal lawmakers its serious concerns that COVID-19 healthcare will significantly impact short- and long-term sustainability of its multi-employer health plans.¹¹

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON COVID-19

Donald Trump asserts that his Administration took the necessary steps early in the pandemic to bring it under control, but he also admitted not telling the public the truth about the deadly and contagious nature of the virus early on.¹² He’s demanded that business and schools re-open, and there is strong evidence that he believes the best answer may be for more Americans to get the virus to establish “herd immunity” while a vaccine is developed and becomes available (most experts agree that herd immunity would require 65-70% become infected; in the U.S., that could mean as many as 2.13 million deaths).¹³ He continues to ignore

social distancing and mask guidelines at events he holds, a practice that appears to have led to him and several others in the Administration contracting COVID-19.

Joe Biden is critical of the Trump Administration’s public information about the virus, lack of respect for the guidance of health experts, constant feuding with his own appointees at the CDC and FDA, and failure to lead the nation by example in terms of social distancing and mask wearing. He believes that, in a short time, the spread of the virus could be brought under control by working with governors and mayors to adopt mask mandates nationwide, with a gradual

reopening of schools and businesses to follow while a vaccine is safely developed.¹⁴

Biden’s COVID-19 Plan commits to many things that are important to essential employees and their families (regular and free testing; federal production and dissemination of PPE; effective, equitable distribution of treatments and a vaccine; rebuilding the defenses that Trump dismantled to prevent pandemic threats; etc.).¹⁵ Biden also supports legislation that would provide relief to the unemployed and to states to support school reopening and pandemic response.¹⁶

Unions and Apprenticeships

The labor movement advocates for policies that promote a full-employment economy at wages high enough to allow working people to support their families. The main purpose of unions during an election is to back policymakers who support collective bargaining and a broad range of pro-worker policies, including the protection of union apprenticeship programs.

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON UNIONS AND APPRENTICESHIPS

While **Donald Trump** has courted union members, particularly in the construction trades, he has made deep cuts to the Department of Labor and positioned the National Labor Relations Board to overturn a series of Obama-era decisions that were great for workers who collectively bargain.¹⁷ Teachers' unions are a frequent target of his criticism, as he has sought to erode funding to public schools in favor of charter schools (he refers to public schools as "government schools").¹⁸ Trump's aggressive tactics in Lafayette Square to clear the way for the president to stage a photo-op, and sending federal agents to sweep up protesters in Portland signal a fundamental hostility to free speech and peaceful protest – an essential right labor unions rely on to expand their influence and improve working conditions.¹⁹

Trump has also directed his Department of Labor (with an executive order) to develop "Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs" (IRAPs), programs that hand to employers and their associations within their industries. In the construction trades, IRAPs are a blueprint for the elimination of trade-specific, union-sponsored apprenticeship programs.²⁰

Joe Biden's commitment to the union way of life is well-established.²¹ He has a series of policy plans that are designed to lift up working families and their unions. He also understands that attacks on public sector unions, by Trump directly or through the Courts in cases like *Janus v. AFSCME*, pose a major threat to the middle class in the United States.

Particularly, he seeks to bring back to the United States' critical supply chains; build a modern infrastructure and clean energy future; build a 21st century caregiving and education workforce to assist working parents (child care, care for aging relatives, etc.); and advance several major proposals from the labor movement (\$15 per hour minimum wage, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, pay equity for women, paid sick days, etc.).²² Biden will also make sure IRAPs do not become a popular alternative to union-sponsored construction apprenticeship programs.

Infrastructure

Many candidates promise to create jobs and improve the nation's infrastructure. That means investing in a modern, sustainable infrastructure and engines of growth both to increase job opportunities and to protect public health and safety – from roads and bridges, to new schools, to water treatment facilities, and other public works.

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON INFRASTRUCTURE

Donald Trump has continuously promised union construction workers infrastructure spending. Trump's plan turned out to be heavily focused on preserving jobs in the oil and natural gas economy, encouraging private development, and reducing environmental impact reviews before major projects begin.²³

Despite some early excitement on Trump and infrastructure,²⁴ and despite bipartisan support and a Republican-controlled Congress, Trump was unable to make a deal on infrastructure. What got in his way appears to be that all infrastructure proposals he advanced included demands for money to build "the wall," which killed any chance of an easy bi-partisan win for working people.²⁵

Trump has turned to executive orders to create something he can point to as an infrastructure agenda, but the orders appear designed to remove environmental regulations and rush through the permit process in pursuit of quick starts of already planned projects for which there is little

public or private funding available.²⁶ Trump's sweeping tax cuts led to some growth, but corporations and the wealthiest Americans did not invest their tax savings into new industry, capital improvements, or jobs.²⁷

Meanwhile, during the years between his promises and his re-election campaign, Trump's relationship with the building trades began to erode, as the Department of Labor under his Administration sought to dismantle unionized apprenticeships.²⁸

Joe Biden is clear that he seeks to use infrastructure spending to create "good, union jobs" while addressing long-standing environmental concerns.²⁹ Biden's plan includes a \$2 trillion investment in American infrastructure, transit, power sector, building upgrades, housing, and other public works related to the clean energy economy – to be deployed over his first term in office.³⁰

These are ambitious plans; but, as vice president, Biden was essentially handed responsibility for the implementation of the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – the 2009 federal relief package passed in the wake of the financial crisis – which included large amounts of money for infrastructure projects.³¹ He is highly critical of Trump's failure to accomplish anything on infrastructure.³² Biden's plans include provisions to make it easier for workers to organize (including the protections sought under the PRO Act), for public service workers to bargain, and to address the misclassification of workers as "independent contractors."

Biden will also ensure that all companies benefitting from his infrastructure and clean energy investments include labor protections and strictly abide by Davis-Bacon prevailing wage guidelines.³³ For federally funded projects, Biden also seeks to prioritize Project Labor and Community Workforce Agreements and employ workers trained in registered apprenticeship programs.

PDC 30's Endorsements

BALLOT QUESTION



Fair Tax Constitutional Amendment: **Vote YES**

See page 9 for more on the Fair Tax Amendment.

U.S. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris



See pages 3, 4, and 11 for an analysis of the positions of Biden and Harris on key issues of importance for labor voters.

U.S. SENATE

Dick Durbin, U.S. Senate



Dick Durbin is Illinois' senior senator and has served as Democratic Whip since 2005. He believes in strong worker protections and recently cosponsored a bill to ensure a fair process for negotiations of

collective bargaining agreements. Throughout his years in Congress, he has worked hard to advocate for Illinois' views on national issues while lobbying for federal support for local initiatives. He led the fight to strengthen Illinois' transportation infrastructure, which is a critical factor supporting economic development and job creation within the state.

U.S. CONGRESS

Sean Casten, U.S. Congress, District 6



Sean Casten is a respected scientist and independent voice for the values of the middle class. He is fighting for job creation, economic opportunity for all, and responsible ways to reduce the deficit. In Congress, he advocates

for sensible, targeted investment that spurs economic development and job creation.

Raja Krishnamoorthi, U.S. Congress, District 8



In Congress, Raja Krishnamoorthi focuses on strengthening the middle class by supporting small businesses, rebuilding our infrastructure, and protecting Social Security and Medicare. He knows our economy works best

when it works for all of us, and he is fighting to make college more affordable, expand access to paid sick and parental leave, and guarantee equal pay for equal work.

Jan Schakowsky, U.S. Congress, District 9



Jan Schakowsky has served Illinois' 9th Congressional District since 1998. She is often referred to as a champion for our nation's seniors, spearheading the Task Force on Aging and Families and continuing the fight to save

Social Security and Medicare. Jan is committed to protecting health care, creating jobs, and restoring the middle class.

Brad Schneider, U.S. Congress, District 10



Brad Schneider focuses on strengthening the middle class, protecting the environment, and helping small businesses grow. He believes long-term investments in infrastructure will provide the necessary foundation for business development across the nation. He promises to remain steadfast on his commitments to a stronger, thriving middle class.

Bill Foster, U.S. Congress, District 11



Bill Foster has a proven record of fighting for working people every day. He protects the middle class by fighting for good-paying jobs, preserving fair wages for workers, opposing tax breaks for companies that move jobs offshore, and standing against tax cuts that only help the richest Americans.

Lauren Underwood, U.S. Congress, District 14



Lauren Underwood's agenda is centered on strengthening economic security and opportunity for working families while protecting the environment and ending gun violence. She supports a broad approach to job creation and advocates for strategic investments in local transportation infrastructure and biomedical and scientific research.

Cheri Bustos, U.S. Congress, District 17



Cheri Bustos believes unions are the driving force behind a sustainable middle class. She will continue to provide an independent voice in Washington, working to eliminate incentives for outsourcing jobs and ensuring all jobs provide livable wages and great benefits.

ILLINOIS SENATE

Cristina Castro, Illinois Senate, District 22



Cristina Castro has stood up for working families and is not afraid to ask tough questions. She has reached across the aisle on the issues that matter most to the people in her district and works in a bipartisan fashion to help solve problems and to move Illinois in the right direction while protecting the values of the middle class and organized labor.

Karina Villa, Illinois Senate, District 25



The daughter of immigrant parents, Karina Villa is a tireless advocate for quality education for all, access to affordable healthcare, immigrant rights, and protection of the environment. She uses her professional

background, leadership, and life experience to collaborate through compassionate conversation. She is committed to listening to the voices of her constituents and ensuring effective representation.

Laura Murphy, Illinois Senate, District 28



Laura Murphy has over two decades of experience in health care and social services. Her working-class background and professional experience inform her views on government that should work toward the

betterment of the people and reinforce her belief in the importance of education, public safety, and fighting corruption and waste government.

Melinda Bush, Illinois Senate, District 31



Melinda Bush has served as Senator for Illinois' 31st District since 2013. She is a lifelong resident of Lake County and a former small business owner. Melinda fights to restore

ethics and good government, support economic development, and strengthen environmental protections.

Steve Stadelman, Illinois Senate, District 34



Steve Stadelman is an award-winning TV news anchor who was first elected to the Illinois Senate in 2012. During his tenure as State Senator, he has fought for innovative funding for economic development

initiatives; worked to safeguard responsible bidder practices; and fought to protect Illinois consumers, abuse victims, and college students.

Patrick Joyce, Illinois Senate, District 40



Patrick Joyce is determined to restore the right values and priorities in Springfield. He is running for the Illinois Senate to make sure all of his constituents' voices are heard, from making health care more accessible and affordable to standing up for our small businesses that create jobs and support our families.

Dave Koehler, Illinois Senate, District 46



Dave Koehler is a longtime friend of labor and believes that strong relationships are key to resolving important issues. He has worked to obtain state resources to fund development initiatives impacting communities. He is willing to

make the decisions necessary to ensure that sustainable jobs are created for working families and schools have adequate resources.

PDC 30's Endorsements *continued*

Meg Loughran Cappel, Illinois Senate, District 49



As a special education teacher, small business owner, AFT-IFT Local 604 union representative, and school board member, Meg Loughran Cappel is heavily involved in the community she hopes to serve. In Springfield,

she will continue to advocate on behalf of working families for affordable healthcare and a strong public education system.

ILLINOIS HOUSE

Jaime Andrade, Illinois House, District 40



First elected in 2014, Jamie Andrade is a long-time community leader and resident of the Irving Park neighborhood. He is the creator and first chair of the new House Cybersecurity, Data Analytics & IT Committee,

established to oversee legislation which seeks to protect the people of Illinois from cyber threats, maintain privacy, and expand opportunity in today's digital world.

Janet Yang Rohr, Illinois House, District 41



Janet Yang Rohr is a mother, business leader, school board member, and long-time Naperville resident committed to putting middle class families first. As state representative, she will use her background in finance and

accounting to reduce the tax burden facing hard-working families and help make health care and education more affordable.

Ken Mejia-Beal, Illinois House, District 42



As a long-time Illinois resident, community activist, and a leader in the financial sector, Ken Mejia-Beal has spent the better part of his life helping others in his community. He understands the socioeconomic struggles faced

by all communities, and has dedicated a large part of his career towards alleviating these disparities in common-sense, bipartisan ways.

Anna Moeller, Illinois House, District 43



Anna Moeller is a leader with integrity and a talent for policymaking. She is committed to working with local residents, Republicans, Democrats, businesses, and labor organizations to strengthen

the local economy, put middle-class families back to work, and streamline the budget to save tax dollars while protecting vital programs that local residents depend on, like education, health care, public safety, and services for seniors and veterans.

Fred Crespo, Illinois House, District 44



Fred Crespo strongly believes in policy that supports and protects working families, and he credits unions for keeping our economy strong. Fred will fight for a budget that protects our most vulnerable citizens and encourages economic development throughout the state.

Diane Pappas, Illinois House, District 45



Diane Pappas immigrated to the U.S. from Poland at age 11. As a State Representative, she has used her experience working as an attorney specializing in corporate negotiations to help opposing parties find common ground and make the compromises necessary to form lasting, successful agreements. She has used these skills in Springfield to cut through partisan gridlock and get Illinois back on track.

Deb Conroy, Illinois House, District 46



Deb Conroy's priorities include creating good jobs through economic development, providing property tax relief to homeowners, ensuring state government lives within its means, and protecting local school resources. She will continue to fight for fiscal responsibility while protecting funding for education, public safety, health care, and programs for seniors and veterans.

Jennifer Zordani, Illinois House, District 47



Jennifer Zordani has been a regulatory attorney for more than 20 years. She previously ran for the U.S. House of Representatives (District 47) and pledges, as a State Representative, to be accessible and hard-working, focused on quality public education, welcoming communities, healthcare, and wage and job growth.

Terra Costa Howard, Illinois House, District 48



Terra Costa Howard advocates for children, seniors, the disabled, and families in need. She served eight years on Glen Ellyn's District 41 School Board. Terra's experiences as an attorney give her a unique understanding of the problems facing Illinois residents and the role the government plays in strengthening the community.

Maura Hirschauer, Illinois House, District 49



Maura Hirschauer is a mother, activist, community organizer, and former elementary educator. She is committed to fostering and maintaining an economy that works for working class families, and will be a leader in fiscal

responsibility fighting for affordable healthcare, equitable schools, and common sense measures to end gun violence.

Kate Monteleone, Illinois House, District 50



Kate is a lifelong Illinois resident with 25 years of leadership experience in healthcare and higher education. She understands the challenges facing middle class families, because she's experienced them, as well. In Springfield, Kate will stand up for families and safer communities, and fight against government corruption.

Marci Suelzer, Illinois House, District 52



Marci's business expertise, legal training, and counseling skills make her uniquely qualified to bring fiscal responsibility back to Springfield. She is passionate about small business and mental health, and she promises to ensure that all voices of the 52nd District are heard and equally represented.

Martha Paschke, Illinois House, District 65



Martha Paschke believes that it is important to have representatives that reflect the values of the communities they serve. The daughter of missionaries, she is an ethical and compassionate leader whose priorities include supporting economic growth, fair taxation, high quality education for all, and access to affordable healthcare.

Suzanne Ness, Illinois House, District 66



Suzanne is a small business owner, county board member, and mother running to bring common sense solutions to Springfield. Coming from a working-class family, she understands the hardships that many families in the 66th District face. Suzanne will work to improve our infrastructure and increase access to important community services.

Maurice West II, Illinois House, District 67



Maurice is running for re-election in the 67th District. He is heavily involved in his Rockford community and makes it his first priority to be accessible to his constituents. Maurice will work to decrease the skills gap so that Rockford becomes a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Dave Vella, Illinois House, District 68



Dave is a Rockford native that will represent constituents of the 68th District with a "community first" mindset. He is committed to strengthening the local economy by creating jobs that pay a living wage, investing in infrastructure to attract new businesses, and partnering with labor unions to incorporate skilled trades curriculum in middle schools and high schools.

Paul Stoddard, Illinois House, District 70



Paul Stoddard is a DeKalb County Board member and a retired Northern Illinois University professor. He believes elected officials should be accountable to their constituents. Paul will advocate for policies that protect and promote the hard working citizens of Illinois, such as tax reform, affordable higher education, and accessible health care.

Joan Padilla, Illinois House, District 71



Joan Padilla is the Executive Director of Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Center. Her focus as State Representative will be to support growth by focusing on jobs, education, infrastructure, and public safety. Other priorities

include reducing property taxes, cutting taxes for the middle class, and enacting mandatory performance audits of state agencies.

Lance Yednock, Illinois House, District 76



Lance Yednock previously served as a business agent and executive board member with Operating Engineers Local 150, where he spent his career fighting for the rights of working men and women. As a State

Representative, he is committed to continuing the fight for more affordable health care, better wages, and property tax relief.

Kathleen Willis, Illinois House, District 77



Kathleen Willis' key priorities are to improve access to outstanding education, provide greater property tax relief to local homeowners, eliminate government waste, and work to get Illinois' economy back on the

right track. She vows to protect funding for vital programs and services while avoiding disastrous cuts to education, public safety, healthcare, and services for veterans and seniors.

Anne Stava-Murray, Illinois House, District 81



Anne was first elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in November, 2018; she is currently seeking a second term. She promises to focus on the key issues affecting residents in her district, including increasing health and safety, strengthening public education, ensuring economic opportunity, and creating financial stability for Illinois.

Barbara Hernandez, Illinois House, District 83



Barbara Hernandez has focused on quality education and making Illinois safer and healthier by fighting for common sense gun laws, access to more affordable health care, and better, high-wage jobs. In her time in

Springfield, she has distinguished herself as an independent voice for her Aurora-based district.

Stephanie Kifowit, Illinois House, District 84



Stephanie Kifowit is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran focused on promoting growth for local area businesses, improving infrastructure, creating jobs, and balancing the state's budget. Her background as a substitute

teacher has led to her strong commitment to building successful schools and communities.

Jehan Gordon-Booth, Illinois House, District 92



Jehan Gordon-Booth has dedicated much of her public service to education and criminal justice reform. Her commitment to preserving people's dignity and their ability to contribute to their communities informs

her push for reform in education, the tax code, sentencing regulation, re-entry programming, and economic opportunity.

Sue Scherer, Illinois House, District 96



Sue Scherer is a former public school teacher who has represented the 96th District since 2013. As a lifelong resident of Macon County, she promises to bring common sense to Springfield by working with

members of both parties to improve public safety, strengthen schools, restore fiscal balance, and create jobs.

Harry Benton, Illinois House, District 97



Harry Benton is a member of Ironworkers Local 444 and a Trustee for the Village of Plainfield. He hopes to lead efforts to lower property taxes, help small businesses succeed, create more jobs, and build

stronger local economies. He is also a strong proponent for expanding quality healthcare for local families, children, seniors, and veterans.

Natalie Manley, Illinois House, District 98



Natalie Manley is serving her second term as Representative for Illinois' 98th District. She is a certified public accountant who draws upon her strong financial background to make fiscal responsibility in state government

a priority. She advocates for creating jobs for local residents, affordable college tuition, and legislation to freeze property taxes.

Jay Hoffman, Illinois House, District 113



Jay Hoffman is a former prosecutor and law enforcement official who puts Illinois' families first. He is committed to protecting our jobs, our schools, our seniors, and our veterans. Jay believes in cutting state

spending, closing corporate tax loopholes, and increasing tax rates on multi-millionaires so they pay their fair share.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Paula Deacon Garcia, DuPage County Board, District 2



Paula Deacon Garcia believes that productive and positive businesses are important in helping a county grow and evolve. She believes job growth for the County is critical and the County should be working to

attract companies that are responsible and forward thinking – progressive companies that pay a living wage and respect workers and their unions.

Amy Chavez, DuPage County Board, District 5



Amy Chavez a candidate for DuPage County Board. She is a proven business leader and passionate advocate for Democratic values, promising more transparency and accountability through actionable

initiatives. Her extensive professional business and leadership experience will make her an asset to the DuPage County Board.

Greg Schwarze, DuPage County Board, District 6



Greg Schwarze is a proud union Firefighter/Paramedic for over 25 years and a dedicated public servant. He's been a resident of Carol Stream since 1999 and has served as a Carol Stream Village Trustee since 2007. As

the Carol Stream Fire District Public Education Coordinator, Greg has had first-hand contact on an everyday basis with the real people who live in his community.

Jennifer Bankert, Fulton County Clerk/Recorder



Jennifer Bankert is the current Fulton County Clerk/Recorder and hopes to continue to help Fulton county take advantage of its opportunities and address its problems. She comes from a strong union family and supports

the right of workers to organize, because that is what helped her family thrive through many generations.

PDC 30's Endorsements *continued*

Jamie Mosser, Kane County State's Attorney



Jamie Mosser's recent legal work has focused on helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. She worked for 20 years as a Kane County prosecutor. She supports programs that identify and divert individuals accused of a crime who have mental health or substance abuse issues to treatment programs rather than jail, and seeks to eliminate racial disparity in charging and bonding decisions.

Theresa Barreiro, Kane County Circuit Clerk



As a Kane County Board Member, Theresa Barreiro has fought to increase transparency and accountability. As Circuit Clerk, she pledges to continue this fight and to bring innovation to the position while reducing waste and increasing transparency. She has a strong knowledge of the office and will strive to bring more services to community residents.

Penny Wegman, Kane County Auditor



As Kane County Auditor, Penny Wegman will draw on her experience as a member of the Kane County Board, and pledges to provide the most honest, efficient, and transparent County government possible, while providing the necessary services as expeditiously and economically as can be done.

Corinne Pierog, Kane County Board Chair



See page 10 for more on Corinne Pierog.

Dale Berman, Kane County Board, District 2



Long-time President of the Village of North Aurora, Dale Berman will draw on his four decades of civic involvement in the Kane County area. He hopes to see the County explore revenue sources, such as grants, as opposed to removing the freeze on the tax levy, and he supports a toll for the Longmeadow Parkway Bridge to help pay for the building of the bridge.

Mavis Bates, Kane County Board, District 4



Mavis is a healthcare professional, small business owner, and public servant with deep roots in the Aurora community. She promises to be an advocate for organized labor and has earned endorsements from many Aurora-area unions and building trades councils. Mavis will bring truth, integrity, and transparency to the Kane County Board.

Mary Kay Crantz, Kane County Board, District 10



Mary has lived in Kane County for over 25 years and is seeking her first term on the Kane County Board. She is an experienced educator and a trusted member of her community. Mary is committed to providing complete transparency and hands-on representation to the Board.

Ruth Kuzmanic, Kane County Board, District 12



Ruth is a retired public-school teacher and coach who has lived in Kane County since 1987. She is running to provide a supportive voice for everyone in her District. Ruth promises to make decisions responsibly and transparently and to focus on health, economy, and local businesses in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sandy Kaczarski, Kane County Board, District 18



Sandy Kaczarski is a media consultant who works with conservation organizations regionally and statewide. She grew up in a solid union family that worked in construction. She worked as a public information manager at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. She hopes to make our communities safer and improve quality of life in Kane County.

Cherryl Fritz Strathmann, Kane County Board, District 20



Cherryl Fritz Strathmann has lived in District 20 since 1977 and has been a small business owner since 1991. She has been active and engaged throughout her adult life, with a wealth of knowledge in the areas of infrastructure, transportation, and open spaces in Kane County. She's focused on clean, safe drinking water, and the effects of climate change.

Vern Tepe, Kane County Board, District 22



Current Elgin Township Trustee Vern Tepe has demonstrated he deserves the opportunity to represent the residents of District 22 on the Kane County Board. For the past twenty years he has helped several companies grow and develop, and has taken his knowledge of data processing, distribution, and programming into his public service.

Ryan Kauffman, Kendall County Circuit Clerk



Ryan Kauffman believes it is time for an upgrade in the Kendall County Circuit Clerk's office. Drawing on his deep background in finance and digital technology, he has proposed a slate of innovative ideas for increasing efficiencies and reducing waste in the Circuit Clerk's office while allowing the office to better serve the residents of Kendall County.

Abbi Sorrells, McLean County Coroner



Abbi Sorrells has a background in emergency and critical care nursing, and she looks forward to serving the diverse population of McLean County as its Coroner. She knows the value of collaborating with an interdisciplinary team and understands the importance of helping families that have experienced a traumatic event in their lives, having compassion for everyone, no matter their social status.

Joe Chiarelli, Winnebago County Chairman



Joe Chiarelli believes that government functions at its highest level when representation is inclusive, and that we must find common ground while standing firm on our principals. As an Alderman for the City of Rockford, he has been at the forefront of every major issue facing the city since 2013. He is committed to aggressively pursuing economic development for all within Winnebago County.

J. Hanley, Winnebago County State's Attorney



J. Hanley promises to restore trust to the office of Winnebago County State's Attorney. He will effectively collaborate with law enforcement and the judiciary while aggressively prosecuting the most dangerous criminals. In so doing, he will work to restore a sense of peace to County residents.

Rob Young, Winnebago County Board, District 17



Rob Young believes his skills and experience can bring much needed stability and vision to the Winnebago County Board. He believes the communities of the County are experiencing a period of incredible success, growth, and development; what is needed now is collaborative leadership to seize new and ongoing opportunities.

Working Families and the Fair Tax Plan: Why This is a Must for Illinois



Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker speaks to the public about the Fair Tax Constitutional Amendment, April 9, 2019.

In Illinois, those at the low end of the income scale currently pay almost twice as much in state and local taxes, as a percentage of income, as those at the top. Over the past 35 years, the wealthiest 10% percent of Illinois households saw their incomes grow by 108%, while the remaining 90% of households experienced a reduction of income of 8%.¹

Meanwhile, current tax revenue cannot pay for core services provided by the state. The percentage change in funding since 2000 in higher education has been -52%; in healthcare -22%; in human services -29%; and in public safety -21%.² Shoring up public pensions and state infrastructure funding are also urgent priorities, and progress cannot be made on these matters without additional revenue.

If the resolution is ratified by voters on Election Day, the Fair Tax is projected to raise \$3.6 billion in new annual revenue from the wealthiest 3% of tax payers in Illinois while cutting the income tax liability, or making no change, for the remaining 97% of state filers.³

If you vote “Yes” on the Fair Tax plan, you recognize that, for the state to properly fund public pensions, state infrastructure, education, public safety and human services, etc. (and thus also to reduce the amount local taxing districts assess in property taxes), the state will inevitably need more revenue. “Yes” means you believe wealthier Illinoisans can and should cover a larger share of those costs than low- and moderate-income taxpayers.⁴

“Yes” also recognizes that COVID-19 has made the problem worse, prompting many – including opponents of the Fair Tax plan – to question how the State’s current tax structure will generate enough income to run the state.⁵

If you vote “No” on the Fair Tax plan, perhaps you have been convinced that your taxes will not go up if the Fair Tax plan fails, or that the economy will improve and wealthier Illinoisans will use their additional wealth for capital investment, job creation, and this will generate more revenue. More likely, if it fails, the state will have no option other than raising the flat tax rate for all taxpayers. (The “rising tide will float all boats” theory has not proven true; even with all the tax cuts passed by the federal government, income inequality has only gotten worse across the nation).⁶

Check the Facts: Enter your information in the Fair Tax Calculator to see what the Fair Tax plan means for you. Search for “Illinois Fair Tax Calculator” or connect using the link below:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/fairtax>

**JOIN US FOR A TOWN HALL MEETING
ON THE FAIR TAX PLAN**

October 22, 2020

See back cover for details

Some Questions and Answers about the Fair Tax Plan

Will the Fair Tax plan increase taxes you pay? The state ALREADY can increase taxes. The question is whether voters want to make it possible for the state to spare 97% of the state’s taxpayers the burden of increased taxes. Only tax filers who make \$250,000 or more per year will see any increase in their state income taxes under the proposal.

Will this cause more people to leave Illinois? The Fair Tax plan is consistent with the way most other states tax their residents, and there are many reasons why Illinois residents settle elsewhere.⁷ In 2020, 41 states and the District of Columbia levied a broad-based individual income tax; and 32 states use graduated income taxes, which tax higher incomes at a higher rate.⁸ The inability to fund public services to attract and retain good employees is a more likely reason residents might leave Illinois.

Will your retirement income be taxed under the Fair Tax plan? There is NOTHING in the Fair Tax plan that contemplates or would lead the state to taxing retirement incomes. The state legislature can ALREADY, if they wanted to, tax retirement income. In fact, if the Fair Tax plan fails, the legislature would likely have to raise tax rates for everyone AND might also need to tax retirement income.

Didn’t someone say the state would tax retirement income? Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs clarified he was referring only to a long-standing argument by some that high-dollar pensions could probably be subject to some taxation, but the Fair Tax plan would still protect low- and moderate-retirement incomes from taxation. “What we were talking about when we talked about retirement income was people like a university doctor at a teaching hospital drawing about a half a million dollars a year in pension income,” he said.⁹

See endnotes at www.pdc30.com/blog/FairTax.

Corinne Pierog for Kane County Board Chair



The daughter of a Union carpenter, and founder and current chair of the Kane County Democratic Women of Illinois, Corinne M. Pierog believes that Kane County leaders must begin to make substantive and strategic plans to address the County's future, as compared to focusing on the past.

Corinne is a longtime friend and frequent visitor to Painters District Council No. 30. "We are excited about Corinne's aspirations for Kane County," says Ryan Anderson, PDC 30's Business Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer. "She knows us well and we have long considered the Kane County Board to be an important local government authority whose decisions affect public construction in the region that is home to our District Council." Indeed, the Kane County Board has been important to PDC 30. District Council Business Representative and Director of Membership Services Brian Dahl spent several years as an appointed and later elected member of the Board.

Corinne intends to accomplish her objectives with a commitment to stakeholder input, proven best-practices, and sensitivity to the property tax impact of County business and programming on residents. In many of Corinne's public service activities, she has shown her dedication to investing in long- and short-term solutions that will create and sustain good Illinois jobs. She believes in the protection of the middle class, establishing

a realistic minimum wage, and ensuring equitable educational possibilities for children – from early childhood to workforce development. Corinne is also committed to preserving programs that support veterans and senior citizens.

Corinne currently serves as the 1st Vice-chair of Age Guide of Northeastern Illinois, as 1st Vice-chair of the Kane County Democrats, and previously served two terms on the St. Charles D303 Board of Education, the board of the United Way of Central Kane County, and as a gubernatorial appointee to the Illinois Business Enterprise Program Council.

A former university professor and college administrator, she holds degrees from the University of California, Irvine, from San Francisco State University, and from Roosevelt University. She is also the principal of Sustainable Leadership Solutions, which provides board-development and financial leadership support to non-profit organizations.

Congratulations Mark Guethle on Your Retirement!

Mark Guethle retired on September 1, 2020, leaving a legacy of candidates and influence that has changed the political composition of the Collar Counties and elevated PDC 30's standing in local, state, and national politics. On behalf of a grateful membership, congratulations Mark on your years of service to the industry, PDC 30, and the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. You are an inspiration to us all.

PDC 30 will celebrate Mark's contributions in more detail in a future regular issue of *The Edge*. For now, we can all honor Mark's achievements by joining him in the crucial final weeks of a critical General Election. Volunteer to call voters, help others get to the polls, and, most importantly, VOTE!



The Edge is the official publication of Painters District Council No. 30, 1905 Sequoia Drive, Suite 201, Aurora, IL 60506; Ph. 630-377-2120 / Fax 630-377-2384; pdc30.com. The development of each edition of *The Edge* is a collaborative effort. It is co-edited by John Butler and Marisa Richards, with contributions by Steve Kulovits. PDC 30 and its affiliated organizations provide content and perspective during its production. Opinions expressed in this General Election Edition are those of the PDC 30 organization and are not intended to reflect the views of any endorsed candidates. Graphic design is by Gregg Rojewski of Rojo Design. Printing and distribution is provided by Fuse Printing (Mittera Chicago). Feedback and suggestions welcome at info@pdc30.com or PDC 30's mailing address (c/o Edge).

Multiemployer Pension Reform

While PDC 30's Pension Fund is well-funded, many pension funds within unionized industries are not faring as well. Of the 10 million workers in multiemployer plans, roughly 1.3 million are in plans that are dangerously underfunded. Labor-backed pension reform measures were passed by the Obama Administration in 2014 (Kline-Miller Multiemployer Pension Reform Act, or MPRA), but that law required that individual reform plans be approved by the U.S. government, which has rarely occurred under the Trump Administration. This measure also offered no source of funding (loans or otherwise) to help struggling plans reform.

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION REFORM

Donald Trump is reportedly willing to sign multiemployer pension reform legislation; however, the Republican-majority in the U.S. Senate apparently is not, owing to their traditionally anti-union ideology.³⁴ For his part, for whatever reason, Trump is either not willing or able to pressure Senate Republican leadership to join him.³⁵ Progress under Trump on this issue will require bipartisan cooperation.³⁶

If **Joe Biden** wins the presidency, it is fair to assume he will seek to pass a multiemployer pension plan bailout and restructuring plan, as it is a key legislative priority for labor unions. He supported the last major pension

reform measure passed in 2014 (MPRA). Where that Act has been used to restructure a small number of struggling pension plans, however, it has also led some participants in those plans who naturally found the benefit-reducing reforms undesirable to criticize Biden directly during the campaign.³⁷

The Democratic-led U.S. House of Representatives passed a multiemployer pension bailout measure (Butch Lewis Act), and also included it in their now sidelined economic relief package – the HEROES Act.³⁸ That pension reform plan included nearly \$100 billion in low-interest loans to the nation's most underfunded union pension

plans, and it would provide an additional \$71 billion in direct cash assistance. Biden's running mate Senator Kamala Harris was also a cosponsor of the Senate Democrats' companion legislation to the Butch Lewis Act.³⁹

Biden is also strongly committed to a comprehensive plan for older Americans, including a plan to preserve and protect Social Security, which is the only backstop participants in struggling multiemployer pension plans will have if their plans become insolvent.⁴⁰

Immigration

Labor unions are naturally drawn to help exploited workers, and often the most exploited are newly arrived immigrants. Consequently, some labor organizations represent ethnically diverse memberships and strive to organize the unorganized, so that area-standard wages and benefits are maintained in their industry. Moreover, labor organizations know that their capacity to bargain effectively requires unity across multiple unions representing workers in all fields. Being on the progressive side of the immigration debate is thus crucial to the success of these union activities.

And then there is a simple, practical matter: Bad immigration policy negatively impacts real people every day. An inhumane immigration policy produces real trauma for mix-status families, their breadwinners, and their communities. Such trauma makes jobsites unsafe, destabilizes education for children, and erodes the potential of communities to mobilize around urban planning and economic development.

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON IMMIGRATION

In 2015, **Donald Trump** made clear his support for a wall across the entire expanse of the U.S. southern border. "The Wall," he argued, would reduce U.S. crime, drug use, drug overdose, and human trafficking. Unable to build a wall, he announced a ban on immigrants from Muslim nations, put in motion policies that turned away or forcibly returned all border crossers, and adopted a "zero tolerance" policy that authorized the separation of children from their parents.

Trump's hardline anti-immigration policies and behaviors are well known. With children locked in cages and sprawling refugee camps formed on the Mexico side of the border, all sides referred to it as a "humanitarian crisis."⁴¹ Anti-immigrant violence inspired by the words of the president also emerged in El Paso and other cities. And, despite professing support for some legal status for "dreamers" (childhood arrivals brought to the United States by their parents), Trump continually sought to terminate the deferred action program (DACA), until the Supreme Court declared that he had improperly halted the program.

On DACA and other common-sense reforms, Trump's demands for "full border security" (the

wall and refusal to properly process legally-arrived asylum seekers) and "a new merit-based legal immigration system" (abolition of the long-standing right of settled legal residents and citizens to sponsor their immediate family members for U.S. entry) blocked any potential for political compromise.⁴²

Trump's recent campaign strategy also appears to be to continually (and incorrectly) claim that Joe Biden wants "open borders," to "expand" the asylum system, for Americans to pay for undocumented immigrants' healthcare coverage, and other groundless assertions.⁴³

Joe Biden will direct federal resources to smart border enforcement efforts, like investments in improving screening infrastructure at U.S. ports of entry. He will also strive to build a flexible and humane immigration system that supports an effective U.S. economy, and safe communities and workplaces.

Biden will halt practices that separate parents from their children (the practice continues⁴⁴), increase resources to support an efficient adjudication of asylum claims and humanely treating asylum

seekers,⁴⁵ and convene the leaders of Canada and Latin American nations from which migrants originate to address the factors driving migration and propose a regional resettlement solution.

Much of Biden's plan on immigration focuses on labor issues – protecting the rights, wages, and working conditions of all workers, and holding employers accountable if they don't play by the rules.⁴⁶ This includes his support for the Protect Our Workers from Exploitation and Retaliation (POWER) Act, which provides critical labor protections for immigrants and contains vital safeguards against retaliation by employers.⁴⁷

While formulating comprehensive immigration reform, Biden will also protect Dreamers (who are legally permitted to work) from deportation and prioritize the removal of individuals deemed threats to national security, public safety, and border security. He will restore sensible enforcement priorities and end workplace raids to ensure that threats based on workers' status do not interfere with their ability to organize and improve their wages and working conditions.



How would the Illinois Fair Tax work? How would it affect you, your family, and your community?

Get the plain facts from expert speakers...

Join the TCDF Virtual Town Hall on the Fair Tax Plan*

Thursday, October 22, 2020
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm (5:45 login)

For more information and to register, go to: <https://tcdfillinois.org/news>. This event is free, but registration is required. Space is limited.

* Learn more about the Fair Tax plan inside, page 9



The Tri-Council Development Fund (TCDF) is a partnership of Painters District Councils 14, 30, and 58; learn more at tcdfillinois.org.



Congratulations STARS Finalists



- 2020 Grand Prize Finalists**
1. Gilberto Santos
 2. Tanner Young
 3. Michael Dennis
 4. Michael Gabriel
 5. David Stankard

- 2020 Secondary Grand Prize Finalists**
1. Steven Griffis
 2. Kenneth Gresham
 3. David Ramirez
 4. Jesse Ramos
 5. Bryan Sadnick

On Saturday, September 26, 2020 PDC 30 conducted a live Virtual STARS Finalist Drawing to draw finalists for the 2020 STARS Grand Prize and Secondary Grand Prize drawings. On Tuesday, October 20th, the 10 finalists will participate in the STARS Award Ceremony at PDC 30's headquarters, to determine the official 2020 winners.

Special thanks to the Prize Oversight Committee, made up of PDC 30 members from each Zone, who certified that every qualifying member was properly entered into each drawing. Stay tuned for the follow-up video and announcement of our official 2020 STARS Winners!

Pictured (left to right): Ryan Anderson, PDC 30 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer; Marisa Richards, PDC 30 Outreach & Engagement Program Manager; and Brian Dahl, PDC 30 Director of Membership Services.